

Grant applications available now

Spouses and dependent children of active duty and retired military members at Robins working toward undergraduate degrees have an opportunity to earn \$1,500 grants from the Air Force Aid Society.

Eligible recipients may apply for the grants for the 2004-2005 school year from now until March 12.

The money comes from the Gen. Henry H. (Hap) Arnold Education Grant program funded by contributions made to the Air Force Aid Society's annual April campaign.

Ms. Janice Barnes, Air Force Aid officer here, said applying early is important because in addition to the initial application, applicants are required to answer a second, more detailed, questionnaire the Air Force Aid Society will mail.

The grants are for full-time undergraduates in colleges, universities or vocational or trade schools whose accreditation is approved by the U.S. Department of Education for participation in federal aid programs.

Applicants must maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 grading scale.

Forms are available at he Family Support Center and at www.afas.org, follow the education link to the form.

— Mrs. Chris Zdrakas

NCO program mass briefing

There will be a mass briefing about the noncommissioned officer retraining program at the Base Theater Tuesday at 9 a.m. For more information, contact Senior Airman Rashaud R. Smith at 327-7352.

NCMA luncheon

The National Contract Management Association luncheon will be at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 18 at the Officers' Club ballroom. There will be a presentation by Mr. George Falldine, WR-ALC Plans and Programs director, at 11:45 a.m. He will discuss new Air Logistics Center transformation initiatives. Anyone interested in attending should contact Mr. Gerald Brunson at 926-7086.

Officers' Hail and Farewell ceremony

There will be an Officers' Hail and Farewell ceremony Feb. 20 at 4 p.m. in the Officers' Club ballroom. Spouses are invited to attend the event and fellowship which follows. For more information, contact Capt. Jeff Styers, WRALC/LF, at 926-3873, or e-mail him at jeffrey.styers@robins.af.mil.

Robins
3-day
forecast

Courtesy of 78th
OSS/OSW

Today
Cloudy with
showers and
thunderstorms



67/56

Saturday
Partly cloudy
then clear



53/40

Sunday
Clear



52/28

What's
inside

AAFES manager part of team that brought store to Mosul **3A**
Innovative environmental cleanup initiated by EM **7A**
Legal Office outlines election rules for civilians, military **3B**
MA employee receives recreation volunteer award **5B**

Wetekam: On the right course

Center Office of Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam loves to run. On any given day you'll see him making his way around the base, one foot falling in front of the other with the precise rhythm of a metronome. In a few short days, he'll make his last lap as commander of this air logistics center.

On Feb. 17, General Wetekam will hand the reigns of responsibility over to Brig. Gen. Michael A. Collings in a change of command ceremony at the Museum of

Aviation's Century of Flight Hangar. The general will also add a star in that ceremony when he is promoted to the grade of lieutenant general. After that, he will move on to his new position as Air Force deputy chief of staff for Installations and Logistics at the Pentagon. Before he left, the general took a final lap with the Rev-Up:

Q. During your time here, you've focused on three major issues - process improvement, partnerships with industry and people. How well is the Center doing?

A. I think we've done well in two years. We've done a lot and made a lot of progress in each area. Am I satisfied with any of the three? No, in the sense that there is still a lot of work to be done. We've chosen Lean as the centerpiece of our process improvement strategy. I think we've done a good job in the last two years of getting that deployed, getting the word out, and going from an experimentation phase to more of an implementation phase across the

Please see **WETEKAM, 2A**



U.S. Air Force photo by Ms. Sue Sapp

Maj. Gen. Don Wetekam, Center commander, hands over the reigns of responsibility to Brig. Gen. Michael A. Collings Feb. 17.

Zero tolerance



U.S. Air Force photos by Ms. Sue Sapp

Weapons, like the ones above, are not allowed at Robins. Civilians and military members face stiff penalties for bringing weapons on base.

Weapons violations draw sharp penalties

By Ms. Lanorris Askew
lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

What to know

The recent conviction of a Robins employee for violating weapons regulations on base has led the 78th Security Forces Investigations Office to send an important message to everyone who enters Robins' gates - there is zero tolerance for the possession of prohibited weapons.

"If you bring an illegal weapon onto this installation and we find out about it, you're in trouble," Tech. Sgt. Samel Brown, noncommissioned officer in charge of special investigations. "It's as simple as that."

Though provisions specifically stating the rules and regulations for weapons violations are posted at each gate, there are workers who don't comply.

Please see **GUN, 2A**



Tech. Sgt. Samel Brown, NCOIC of the 78th Security Forces Squadron Investigations Office, shows off a confiscated pistol.

Effort means some can leave active duty early

By Maj. John J. Thomas
Air Force Personnel Center
Public Affairs

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER - There's good news for thousands of airmen considering leaving active duty who thought they couldn't because of existing service obligations.

An effort dubbed 'force shaping' is opening the exit doors to officers and enlisted in select career fields and year groups by waiving some active-duty service commitments previously incurred for events like government-funded education, permanent changes of station and promotion.

Force Shaping includes opportunities to transition to the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard; as well as relieving some people of their active-duty service commitments.

Rules for leaving active duty early will be the least restrictive for anyone wanting to transfer to the Guard or reserve through the PALACE CHASE program.

Some bonus payback requirements may be waived. Applications for any of the early release programs must be made through local military personnel flights by March 12.

More than 16,000 additional people than are projected to leave - 12,700 enlisted and 3,900 officers - will be allowed out to help the service return to the authorized force size by Sept. 30, 2005.

Due to manning shortages, 29 officer and 38 enlisted specialties will not qualify for many of the waivers.

Among those are pilots, navigators, air battle managers, aerial gunners, fuels specialists, nurses, and first sergeants.

The complete list of 'stressed' career fields that are excluded from many of the waivers is posted at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/shape>.

Details and career counseling are available from unit career assistance advisors at each base. People can also call the Air Force Contact Center at DSN 665-5000 or toll-free (800) 616-3775 for more information.

Army gate Guardsmen mark one-year anniversary

Sgt. Vincent Walton, 1177th Transportation Company, right, talks with Senior Airman Johnny Seay, 78th Security Forces Squadron.



U.S. Air Force photo by Ms. Sue Sapp

By Ms. Lanorris Askew
lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

Nearly one year ago more than 100 Georgia National Guardsmen from the 1177th Transportation Company out of LaGrange, Ga., became a part of the Robins family.

Hailing from cities around the state, they stand shoulder to shoulder with the 78th Security Forces Squadron ensuring the safety of the base.

Sgt. Vincent Walton, 1177th

transportation specialist, is but one of those force multipliers who proudly works eight-to-10 hour shifts, making sure those who enter Robins have the right credentials.

The father of two said he misses his wife and children, but knowing he's helping with the defense of the nation makes it a little easier.

"It gives me great pleasure to protect and serve," he said. And to know that the people at Robins and in the surrounding

area are grateful makes it even better. We get a lot of thank yous, on and off duty. That's what makes us feel worthwhile."

While smiles, appreciation and pats on the back are comforting, nothing can relieve the strain of being away from home.

The Columbus, Ga., resident said his 12-year-old son has been affected a great deal

Please see **GATE, 2A**

WETEKAM

Continued from 1A

board. The second one has to do with partnering with industry. Again, we’ve made a lot of progress if you go back to where we were then and where we are today. We’ve certainly established several more partnerships and matured the ones that we already had. I’m real pleased with the progress but there’s still a lot to do there. I’ll add that when I talk about partnering, it is not outsourcing. Some people use the term partnering as kind of a cover, I do not. I’m talking about true partnerships where we work together to leverage the best of both worlds. We have a lot of examples of that at Robins. Partnerships have garnered a lot of additional work in many areas because we’ve been able to partner

with our major defense contractors. The third area of focus is our people. It’s last, but it’s probably most important because everything we do hinges upon our people. How we develop our work environment? what type of work environment do we have here? What is the human relations climate that we’ve worked so hard to try and improve? Do people feel comfortable coming to work? Are they treated the way they need to be, and also how do we develop our work force? How do we train and educate our work force? How do we recruit our work force? And how can we do that better? Again there are a lot of initiatives, there is a lot of progress that I’ve seen in the last two years, and there’s a long list of initiatives that we’ve undertaken, but am I satisfied with it?

No. Not by a long shot. I’m happy that we’re on the right course, and I’m confident we’re on the right course, but there’s a tremendous amount of work to be done. **Q. If there was a piece of advice you’d offer Team Robins to help keep the Center viable, what would it be?** A. I’m not too much into offering advice, but I guess it would be keep the focus on the war fighter and on what we’re doing. The war on terrorism is a long and hard struggle. We need to understand that we continue to have a vital role in that. What Robins does is going to continue to be very important to the successful outcome of that endeavor. **Q. In your new position, you’ll address many issues that have lasting impact on our base. How will your**

tenure as an air logistics center commander help in your decision processes? A. It has given me a better understanding of the whole-sale logistics process both in terms of what we do in product support and sustainment management, and what our industrial capabilities are. Now I had some of that background before I got here, but I have a deeper understanding of that, and that’s clearly going to be a major issue in the job I’m going to. It certainly gives me a lot more depth of experience than I had before. **Q. Robins, in fact the Air Force, faces significant challenges as it attempts to reshape – transform itself - – into the best fighting machine for the 21st century. What can be done here to make sure we have a significant role in that future force?**

A. We’re already playing a pivotal role in that. As we talk about transforming the military, we’re talking about the things that we’re already working on - process improvement, partnering with industry, development of our people and also the role that we play in the global war on terrorism which will be pivotal to our transformation efforts, and is today. **Q. What are your feelings on the relationship between the Center and the local community?** A. Well I’ve said many times publicly and privately that I’ve never really seen community support that rivals what we have at Robins. There might be a place somewhere else in the United States military that enjoys the same level of support that we have, but I’ve never seen it. We’re truly intertwined. I don’t view this

as you do at a lot of places where there’s community on one side and the base on the other. There are some support activities that go on back and forth. In this case, it’s truly one community. **Q. Is there anything you would like to add?** A. I just really want to commend the men and women at Robins Air Force Base for what they’ve done. I want to thank them personally for their great support. I’ve made so many good friends here - both in the community and on the base, and I will tell you that I’m really humbled by the many kind words that my wife and I have received - especially over the last few months as people knew that we were leaving. I thank the community; I thank the men and women at Robins for what they do each and every day. God bless them all.

WEAPON

Continued from 1A

According to the Judge Advocate General’s office, penalties for military members who break these rules are far from a slap on the wrist. Penalties include confinement, rank reduction and loss of pay. Ms. Dee Dial, special assistant U.S attorney, said civilians could also lose big with prison time, large fines or both. Mr. Mark Henderson, chief of security investigations, said a detailed description of what constitutes dangerous and illegal weapons is available on the Robins Web site. “We take proactive measures such as random vehicle searches using military working dogs to look for contraband,” he said. “It’s not uncommon for one of the dog teams

to alert on a vehicle and find ammunition or weapons.” If a hit is made, the owner of the vehicle is asked for consent to search. “If the owner gives consent, then we search the car. If any illegal items are found, charges are made,” said Sergeant Brown. “If the owner doesn’t give consent and there’s probable cause to search, a call goes in to the magistrate who can give authority to search without consent. There’s no getting around it.” Mr. Henderson said national defense is the top priority. “A working dog alert on explosives may be as small as a box of ammunition, but we can’t make the assumption that it’s a small weapon or small ammunition,” he said. “We go with the idea that it’s a direct danger to our vital resources.” There are some exceptions to the

| The rules |
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| Under Article 92, of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, military personnel who violate a lawful general regulation regarding the possession, carrying, storage or disposition of firearms could face court-martial punishment of a dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, confinement for two years, and reduction to E-1. |
| Under Article 134 of the code, any military personnel who carry a dangerous, concealed weapon without proper authority could face a bad conduct discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, confinement for one year, and reduction to E-1. |
| Civilians could face maximum penalties of one year imprisonment, a \$100,000 fine or both. Civilians could also face possible administrative disciplinary action. |

rule for those who live on base. “People who live in base housing may have privately-owned, legal weapons in their home,” said the sergeant. “They must register the weapon within five duty days of occupying government quarters.” Illegal weapons should be given to their first sergeant who will give

them to security forces investigations until the evidence disposal board witnesses the weapon’s destruction. A 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week armory is available for those who are on base short term. Those in billeting or the base dorms can use the armory and check out the firearms when

they leave the base. While that is one exception to the rule, another is recreational firearms used for hunting or skeet shooting. These firearms do not have to be registered on base. “There are certain weapons that can be brought on base during certain times of the year,” he said. “Long rifles are never allowed because the trajectory of the rifle would be a threat or danger to aircraft, but shotguns are allowed during hunting season.” When carrying a firearm, it’s the owner’s responsibility to take the most direct route to their competition, hunting area or the armory. “We don’t want them to have the weapons in the car at work or at the Base Exchange,” said Mr. Henderson. “We want to control the weapons and know who is carrying them.”

GATE

Continued from 1A

by his absence. “We always spent a lot of time together, whether it was the park, the movies or skating,” he said. My not being there has been hard on him.” To help his son deal with the separation issues, Sergeant Walton bought him a dog to help keep him occupied. “The dog is also to help teach him some responsibility,” he said. In addition to the dog, the sergeant also purchased a pre-paid cell phone for his son so they’re always only a call away. The Army veteran, who spent 10 and a half years on active duty, said he goes home as often as he can, trying to be away for no more than 12 consecutive days at a time. Army Spc. Debra Kolasienski doesn’t man the gates, but her duty is just as important. As an administrative specialist, her job is to make sure all of the soldiers’ files, travel vouchers, per diems, promotions, awards and other vital information is taken care of.

The Newnan, Ga., native said when she first heard they would be mobilizing, she didn’t know what to expect. Though she misses her old

| What to know |
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| The 1177th Transportation Company, a U.S. Army National Guard unit from LaGrange, Ga., has been assisting Robins with base security since February 2003. Entering their second year at Robins, the unit continues to serve as a force multiplier. |
| The mobilization is a part of an agreement between the Air Force and Army for soldiers to augment security at Air Force bases in the United States and overseas for up to two years. |

“I was shocked and surprised because we didn’t know where we were going,” she said. The 20-year-old said the distance has been hard on her and her family. “My parents and I have a very close relationship so it’s really hard for me to go without seeing them for awhile,” she said. Traveling home at least once a month, she said she misses time with her friends too. “I’m dying to just come home from work and call my friends and ask them if they want to go out for dinner,” she said. “I really miss that.”

friends she said she has made many new Air Force buddies. “At first they were a little hesitant having us here, but we’ve shown them that we’re decent people and everyone has been wonderful,” she said. “I’ve made tons of new friends, but I still miss my old ones.” Specialist Kolasienski, who has been in the Guard for three years, has eased into her job and feels good about the role she serves. “At first I didn’t really feel I was doing my duty because I was in the states. Now that I’m here, I realize that what we’re doing is serving our country in our own way,” she said. “At times I get e-mails from different people telling me how they appreciate the military and

what we’re doing here.” Sergeant Walton agreed. “Coming into the Middle Georgia area, we have been very welcomed by the Air Force itself and the civilian sector,” he said. “Even after a year, stores and restaurants greet us like one of the family.” “The accommodations are wonderful too,” said Specialist Kolasienski. “You can’t ask for anything better. You get money for food, hot water and a bed and a roof. It could be a lot worse.” With one year down and one to go, the men and women of the 1177th are ready for whatever comes their way. “This is my opportunity to serve my country, and I am glad to do it,” said Sergeant Walton.

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CORRECTION

In the Jan. 30 edition of the Rev-Up, colonel select Lt. Col. Keith F. Yaktus’ name was misspelled. We regret the error.

market
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Robins’ AAFES manager part of team that brought store to Mosul

By Mrs. Chris Zdrakas
chris.zdrakas@robins.af.mil

A 46-year-old civilian from Robins moved from comfort zone to war zone, enduring gunfire, heat and wild dogs to become part of a team that set up exchange services for troops in Mosul and remote sites in Iraq.

And he said he would do it all over again.

Mr. Mike Chaltry, manager of Robins’ Car Care Center, answered the call when the Army Air Force Exchange Service called for volunteers to take Post Exchange - the Army’s equivalent of the Air Force’s Base Exchange - operations to Operation Iraqi Freedom. A 29-year employee of AAFES, he signed on for six months.

Mr. Chaltry and 11 other AAFES retail managers from the U.S. and abroad, formed the first AAFES team to hit the ground in Mosul last May. Mr. Chaltry traveled from Fort Benning, Ga., to Atlanta, then to Germany, Cyprus, Kuwait and finally, Baghdad in three days. The final, most memorable part of the trip was the flight by CH-47 Chinook helicopter to Mosul. A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter escort went with the team.

Junk food and electronics big sellers

Within three days of their arrival in Mosul, the largest city in northern Iraq, the team set up its store, stocking a military-erected tent with merchandise initially convoyed there on 20- and 40-foot container vans like those seen on 18-wheelers. The store had sales of about \$150,000 on opening day, offering items like potato chips, underwear, toiletries and electronics.

“The troops were so grateful we were there,” the father of three sons said. “They were snatching up junk food, portable DVD and CD players and CDs.”

For the first four or five days, the team “camped under the stars on a cot amidst mosquitoes, wild dogs and flies.” Four or five bottles of water over the head helped keep him cool. They later moved into six-person tents with wooden floors.

The AAFES “office” was a former duty-free operation at Mosul’s airport. Since both the living quarters and large tent that became the post exchange were next to the noisy runway, the team experienced times when they were concerned for their safety.

Attacks came in a pattern
“The first RPG - rocket-propelled grenade - attack was scary, but after we went through one, we began to see a pattern,” he said. “The attacks seemed to be one night a week. There was one near

miss, but somebody was looking out for us. I felt like the dear Lord was with me the whole time.

“We became accustomed to hearing helicopters, C-130s and occasional C-17s overhead all day and all night,” he continued.

The sounds were still with him when he returned home, and it took a couple of days to readjust to a relatively noiseless atmosphere.

A handyman and former adult Boy Scout leader, he led the team in improving conditions at the site. They built a shower with gravity-fed water tanks overhead and an out-house equipped with a 55-gallon drum inside for sanitary purposes.

The Mosul site is a home away from home for the 101st Airborne Division from Fort Campbell, Ky., and Mr. Chaltry said he made many friends among the troops.

Area “dirty and backward”

He described the area as “dirty, impoverished and backward,” with trash on the sides of the road and burning on street corners. There were also vehicles “we haven’t seen on our streets in years. Taxicabs were held together by baling wire and chains.”

The locals worked at the PX for \$5 a day, and often wore the same clothes for a week at a time. Some were barefoot. Mr. Chaltry said he felt “really sorry for them.” In contrast, the team also saw “fancy palaces of gold and marble closed to common people.”

“A lot of people there speak English,” he said, “so communication wasn’t a problem. We picked up on Arabic, and they picked up on English.”

The team ate MREs - Meals Ready to Eat - and Mr. Chaltry went from weighing around 200 pounds to 186, but said the meals didn’t leave him hungry - although he said he got “a little tired of eating rice and chicken.”

“Not home, but bearable”

The team made partitions in their six-person tent for privacy. Each had a shelf to store clothes. There was electricity, and eventually air conditioning and fans.

“It was comfortable, not home with central heat and air, but bearable,” he said. Temperatures of 120 were common in the summer, and he saw raindrops only a couple of times. They had a common tent equipped with a television set that had satellite reception so they could watch football games, CNN and programs from home.

“We also had computers the whole time we were there,” he said, “as well as a satellite phone and DSN service. When we first got there, electricity was on again, off again.



Submitted photos

Above, this was Mr. Chaltry's turf for six months. Here, he is surrounded by containers filled with supplies for the exchange. Below, Mr. Chaltry got a smile from these three Iraqi youngsters after sharing some sunflower seeds with them.



We couldn’t count on city power, but we had a lot of generator backup.”

Taking the show on the road

Once a week, the team went on what it called “rodeos,” taking merchandise to troops in outlying areas. They hung AAFES banners that said “BX/PX ...We go where you go.” At Mosul, concessionaires opened barber, souvenir and alteration

shops after the PX operation got under way.

“Our pride and reward was being the first part of AAFES going in and providing support to the area,” he said. “As we speak, they are building a hard, ground-up facility, with food places like Burger King, a pizza franchise, Baskin-Robbins, chapel and theater. I would love to go back a year from now and see that.”

The son of a retired master sergeant, he was born into the Air Force lifestyle, and volunteered for the AAFES deployment because he “felt a need to serve the troops better.” He said the trip was hard on his wife Teresa, but she supported his decision to go.

“It was hard to leave after working with the team for six months. We had bonded, looking out for each other, toiling together in the heat and facing danger together. I would definitely like to go again.”

He passed two major milestones in Iraq - his 46th birthday Sept. 26, and being present in Mosul when the Uday and Kusay, sons of Saddam Hussein, were killed in a fire-fight. Chaltry has a photo of their cars, a Mercedes and a BMW, sitting side by side, parts removed by souvenir seekers.

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Robins Prayer Breakfast tickets on sale Monday

By Mrs. Chris Zdrakas
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Robins’ annual Prayer Breakfast will be held March 5 from 7 - 8:15 a.m. at the Museum of Aviation Century of Flight Hangar.

Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Charles Baldwin, deputy chief of the Air Force Chaplain Service headquartered in Washington, D.C., will speak on the theme “Can You Hear Me Now?” with references to Psalm 97:1-6, 10-12 and Mark 8:18.

Tickets, which will be \$2, will be sold at the Chapel and through unit orderly rooms, beginning Monday.

A 1969 Air Force Academy graduate, Chaplain Baldwin was an EC-121 pilot with the 552nd Airborne Early Warning and Control Wing, McClellan

Air Force Base, Calif., and a rescue helicopter pilot in Vietnam and Thailand before leaving the Air Force in 1974. In 1977, he earned a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., serving as a Southern Baptist minister in civilian life before returning to the Air Force as a chaplain in 1979. He served in 12 Chaplaincy assignments in the Air Force before taking his present assignment.

Chaplain Baldwin earned a bachelor of science degree in 1969 from the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., in 1969, and a Master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., in 1977.

The breakfast is non-denominational. All faiths are invited to participate.

‘People first’ mindset opens doors to diversity

By Master Sgt. Brian O. Baker
78th Air Base Wing
Military Equal Opportunity

Webster defines “diversity” as being composed of distinct or unlike elements or qualities. When we think about diversity, we usually translate it into our own frame of reference when it comes to people of different races, for example. It means so much more than that. It’s indeed a diverse world in which we live, and the ever-changing global human relations climate makes our world, as well as our workplace, more diverse than ever. For these reasons we need to maintain our focus on the target of taking care of our people.

Consider the question: What comes to mind when you hear the phrase “diversity in the workplace”? Do you think about a group of men and women working together, or an Asian-American and Native-American doing main-

tenance together on an aircraft? Do we limit our scope when we think about diversity by not considering all the possibilities that are involved?

If we can truly say we value diversity, we can assume the correct posture in the workplace. “Counseling the Culturally Different Theory and Practice” concludes, “To truly value diversity, however, means altering the power relations in organizations to minimize discrimination. Otherwise, discrimination will continue to loom as a threat to our organizational landscape.”

In the corporate world, diversity could very well be the defining factor of the success (or failure) of an organization. As such, the more diverse the organization, the more diverse the customer base is likely to be. The benefits of diversity are so far-reaching, we should avoid placing a lid on how we think about it. In essence, diversity enhances the product, service or

process. The military environment is similar to civilian corporations in terms of organizational strength when it comes to diversity. In fact, our military forces mirror the diversity of society.

As a society we were not born with a “diversity” or people mentality. In fact, many people – if not most – are very resistant to change.

Perhaps the most formidable obstacle to diversity is fear of the unknown. This fear often causes defense mechanisms to operate and feelings of being threatened to rise up within us. The only real way to combat this “enemy” is through education and awareness. Through awareness of ourselves first, we can look inward and examine where we stand with respect to diversity.

Before we can be comfortable with those who are “different” than ourselves, we must be comfortable in our own “skin.” Even our late president, John F.

Kennedy realized the need to recognize and appreciate equal opportunity and diversity in his radio and television address to the American people on Civil Rights June 11, 1963: The heart of the question is whether all Americans are to be afforded equal rights and equal opportunities, whether we are going to treat our fellow Americans as we want to be treated. If an American, because his skin is dark, cannot eat lunch in a restaurant open to the public, if he cannot send his children to the best public schools available, if he cannot vote for the public officials who will represent him, if, in short, he cannot enjoy the full and free life which all of us want, then who among us would be content to have the color of his skin changed and stand in his place?

Then we can ask ourselves these questions: Do I consider the sensitivities of others before I speak or act? Do I ensure that everyone in my organization feels valued and

empowered to contribute? Do I really see differences as strengths? Back to the definition of diversity - a composition of distinct or unlike elements or qualities. We bring many qualities to the table of our workplace. We bring a wide range of experience and knowledge as well. How we view these qualities will ultimately determine how well we will use them. Naturally, if we fail to see or appreciate a particular quality in someone, we may be missing a most significant or potentially valuable aspect of who they are. If we consider anything less as a supervisor, manager, or co-worker, individuals may need to take a hard look at themselves through deep introspection by looking at the person in the mirror to see for themselves the value and benefits of diversity in today’s work force.

Editor’s note: February is Black history month. Turn to Page 2B for a listing of events on base.

Abdominal circumference window to overall health

By Col. Laura Torres-Reyes
380th Expeditionary Medical
Group commander

SOUTHWEST ASIA – Are you frustrated with the abdominal circumference score for the new fitness standard? Have you pounded out hundreds of crunches, pumped oodles of push-ups, only to find your abdominal girth doesn’t get you past a composite score of 80?

I must admit that I was at first perplexed and amazed that the numbers and scores didn’t change based on height or age. How could that be?

The key to understanding why abdominal circumference takes a huge chunk of your fitness score is in understanding that our new fitness program is about maintaining the health of your whole body.

What really matters now to the Air Force is that you are maintaining a state of health that decreases your risk of preventable diseases. Research has shown conclusively that abdominal size reflects this concept of whole health.

Besides the obvious risk factor of smoking tobacco, your amount of abdominal

“Take heart! You don’t have to look for a liposuction specialist or invest in expensive gadgets advertised on TV to make an improvement. The only proven way to decrease your abdominal circumference is to decrease your body fat.”

fat is a good predictor of your risk for heart disease, diabetes, stroke and some types of cancer. Isn’t that amazing? You don’t need a palm reader or crystal ball. By just

taking a simple tape measurement, you can get a pretty good idea of your chances for enjoying a long, healthy life. Of course, the hard part is deciding what to do if your


abs just aren’t measuring up. Take heart! You don’t have to look for a liposuction specialist or invest in expensive gadgets advertised on TV to make an improvement. The only proven way to decrease your abdominal circumference is to decrease your body fat. The fact is we all have those enviable six-packs of muscle hidden under our abdominal fat. As you lose the fat, the muscle definition becomes clear. If you increase your aerobic capacity and strengthen your shoulders and core muscle groups, your total body fat

will decrease and your abdomen will firm up. It is really a pretty good package deal; as you improve your scores for the 1.5 mile run, push-ups, and sit-ups, you should see your abdominal girth decrease. Of course, you will also have to burn more calories than you eat, actually exercise aerobically by maintaining your training heart rate between 60 and 75 percent, and build more muscle to boost your metabolism. OK, so I never said it would be easy, but don’t you feel better just knowing it makes sense?

Action Line is an open door program for Robins Air Force Base personnel to ask questions, make suggestions or give kudos to make Robins a better place to work and live.

Please remember that the most efficient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to directly contact the organization responsible. This gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve their processes.

To contact the Action Line, call 926-2886 day or night, or for quickest response e-mail to one of the




Commander’s Action Line

Maj. Gen. Don Wetekam
Commander,
Warner Robins Air Logistics Center

Col. Tom Smoot
Commander,
78th Air Base Wing

following addresses: If sending from a military e-mail system select, Robins Commanders Action



Line from the Global Address List. If sending from a commercial e-mail account (AOL, AT+T, CompuServe, Earthlink, etc.), use action.line@robins.af.mil. Readers can also access Action Line by visiting the Robins AFB homepage at https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm. Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response. Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Rev-Up. Anonymous Action Lines will not be processed.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Security Forces..... | 327-3445 |
| Services Division..... | 926-5491 |
| EEO Office..... | 926-2131 |
| Employee Relations..... | 926-5802 |
| Military Pay..... | 926-3777 |
| IDEA..... | 926-2536 |
| Base hospital..... | 327-7850 |
| Civil engineering..... | 926-5657 |
| Public Affairs..... | 926-2137 |
| Safety Office..... | 926-6271 |
| Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline..... | 926-2393 |
| Housing Office..... | 926-3776 |

Base Restaurant is freezing

On Jan. 20, my friends and I went to the Base Restaurant to eat lunch. The minute we walked into the building we could feel cold air in the room around to the food lines. We sat down near the widescreen TV and cold air was blowing on us there as well. It was very uncomfortable to say the least. Food cooled very quickly and everyone ate with their coats on and went outside to get warm after they were finished. The following day, some of those same friends went to the restaurant and reported it was just as cold that day as the day before. They chose not to eat in those conditions again. Is there a reason there was no heat in the Base Restaurant? Will there be heat in the restaurant in the future or was this heat problem caused by ongoing renovations?

Colonel Smoot replies: I do apologize for the uncomfortable conditions you experienced last week while dining at the Base Restaurant. The lack of heat was caused by contractors who inadvertently cut a wire that feeds the steam pumps that warm the building. This happened while cutting the floor to remove old sewer pipes. Repairs were made the same day; however, controllers for the heat system were damaged. Base Civil Engineering worked diligently to diagnose the situation and corrected the problem on Jan. 22. I truly regret that you and your guests experienced an uncomfortable dining experience. We are working closely with the contractor to ensure this does not happen again. Thank you for your comments and concerns and we look forward to

having you dine with us again.

Is there a standard form for Family Medical Leave?

Is there a standardized form for applying for Family Medical Leave Act? I was told there wasn't; we had to submit it on letterhead. Other companies provide forms for employees to give to their doctor to fill out, which is a much simpler process.

General Wetekam replies: Thank you for asking about available forms to use when requesting Family and Medical Leave Act. The Office of Personnel Management Web site, www.opm.gov, has electronic forms which are available for your use in requesting FMLA and in obtaining medical documentation to support your request for FMLA. One such form is OPM Form 71, Request for Leave or Approved Absence, which can be used to request FMLA. Block 5 of OPM Form 71 is reserved specifically for requesting FMLA. You can access OPM Form 71 at www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/opm71.pdf. The OPM Web site has also published U.S. Department of Labor Form WH-380, which is optional for use in obtaining medical documentation to support your request for FMLA. DOL Form WH-380 can be accessed at www.dol.gov/esa/regs/compliance/whd/fmla/wh380.pdf. You may use any one of the above-mentioned forms for

requesting FMLA. Requests for FMLA may also be submitted on letterhead with appropriate supporting medical documentation. For additional information concerning FMLA, please contact your servicing Employee Relations Specialist at 926-5802 or 926-0677.

Can racquetball court reservation policy be revisited?

I understand that the base Fitness Center now makes reservations for the racquetball court in half hour blocks. If two people of roughly equal abilities play racquetball it may take between 15 and 20 minutes to play one game. With a 30 minute limit, players will be limited to one or two games with no rest period (usually 2-3 minutes) between games. Can this policy be re-visited?

Colonel Smooth replies: Thank you for allowing me to clarify the reservation system at the Fitness Center. The center has identified all possible areas in and around the facility to accommodate mandatory unit physical training, which the racquetball courts suit the needs of some smaller organizations. To maximize usage, scheduling of those areas has been broken down into 30-minute increments. However, you are fully permitted to reserve the racquetball court for the entire hour. Please contact Lesley Lee at 926-2129 for additional information.



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Innovative environmental cleanup initiated by EM

From staff reports

During the next several weeks, environmental cleanup work will begin in an area of Robins known as the Horse Pasture site.

This site is a non-industrial area in the southeastern part of the base, near the small arms range and the horse pasture.

Historical activity at portions of the site, located primarily within the base boundaries, resulted in soil and groundwater contamination that requires cleanup to meet Georgia Environmental Protection Division standards for protecting the environment.

Previous investigations have shown that the current risk to the animals and humans is insignificant because the contamination at the site is located in the soils and groundwater beneath the surface.

The work will be completed using an innovative contracting mechanism designed to save the government millions of dollars and clean up the site faster. The soil excavation and stabilization will be conducted

during the first two years.

Groundwater cleanup, which requires more complex, long-term treatment processes, is scheduled to be completed by 2009.

Environmental Management, which has been recognized by the Air Force and Georgia Environmental Protection Division for program excellence, initiated the innovative approach for this site. In September, the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence awarded an \$8.65 million contract to BEM Systems, Inc. of Chatham, N.J., and

its local partner, Tetra Tech, to implement the cleanup.

The effort is unique because it's the first environmental remediation project awarded by Air Force Materiel Command and Robins as a performance based contract. The project will use the latest technologies and methods to reduce the cleanup schedule.

Under the contract, the time for cleanup of contamination will be compressed to six years - compared to a typical cleanup approach that can take from 10 to 30 years. The

result is a savings in cleanup costs by the Air Force of several million dollars.

The cleanup effort will be implemented with a minimal amount of disruption to the Robins Riding Club and nearby base housing. Coordination will be done during the project to make sure people using the horse stables and living in base housing are aware of the activity.

Fred Otto in Environmental Management, 926-1197 extension 146, can be contacted for more information regarding the project.

\$1,500 scholarship for military children deadline approaching

By Ms. Holly J. Logan
holly.logan@robins.af.mil

Some military children will pay a reduced college tuition bill this year through the Defense Commissary Agency's Military Children Scholarship Program.

DECA's scholarship program has awarded nearly 1,500 scholarships and nearly \$2 million since its first awards in 2001.

Mr. Bob Bemis, Air Force Reserve Command services director, said the program has helped lower the cost that his daughter, Karen, a 19-year-old freshman at Yale University, will have to pay back.

"The cost of Yale is overwhelming," he said. "Part of the cost is the responsibility of the parent. Some of it is the student's responsibility. This will help reduce Karen's student loan."

The retired senior master sergeant said while the \$1,500 scholarship doesn't seem like much compared to the school's \$38,000 yearly tuition expense, it helps his family shoulder the cost.

"It's a way to reward students for high-performance in high school academics and extra curricular activities," he said. "Anything to help defer the cost helps her and our family."

At least one scholarship of \$1,500 or more, depending how many donations are made to the scholarship fund, will be awarded to qualified applicants at every commissary location.

Applicants are required to write an essay - This year's topic is "What aspect of military life has had the greatest influence on you?"

Ms. Edna Hoogewind, program liaison for DECA, said the essay is more important than some may think.

"In past years, the essay has

been a key factor in deciding among the many outstanding applicants," she said. "So, students should put on their thinking caps and give it their best shot."

Editor's Note: Ms. Carrie Williams, with the Defense Commissary Agency, contributed to this article.

What to know

Application deadline is Feb. 18, by close of business. For applications, stop by the Commissary or visit www.militaryscholar.org.

Who's eligible

Active-duty, Guardsmen, Reserve, and retired military members' children who are under 23 and unmarried may qualify for the program. Students must plan to attend an accredited college or university full-time in the fall or enroll in a study program designed to transfer into a four-year degree program.

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